



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FREE HUNTING LICENSES TO CERTAIN YOUTHS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES; DEFINING "LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS"; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-805, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 87-2-805, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-2-805. (Temporary) Persons under eighteen years of age -- youth combination sports license -- ~~terminally ill~~ youth with life-threatening illness under ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age -- free wildlife conservation license for resident seniors and certain minors.** (1) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may fish and may hunt upland game and migratory game birds during the open season with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are 15 years of age may hunt migratory game birds with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are under 12 years of age may fish without a license. A nonresident person under 15 years of age may not fish in or on any Montana waters without first having obtained a Class B, B-4, or B-5 fishing license unless the nonresident person under 15 years of age is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident person and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult as established by law or by rule of the department.

(2) A resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may purchase a Class A-3 deer A tag for \$6.50 and a Class A-5 elk tag for \$8.

(3) (a) A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a youth combination sports license for \$25. A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age and who applies for any hunting license for the first time is entitled to receive a youth combination sports license free of charge.

(b) The youth combination sports license includes:

(i) a conservation license;

- (ii) a fishing license;
- (iii) an upland game bird license;
- (iv) an elk license; and
- (v) a deer license.

(c) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A fishing license for \$8.

(d) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A-1 upland game bird license for \$3.

(e) A person who lawfully purchases or is granted a free youth combination sports license at 17 years of age, but who reaches 18 years of age during that license year, may legally use the license during that license year. A person who hunts or fishes using a youth combination sports license purchased or granted free after the person reaches 18 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to any of the following penalties by the sentencing court:

(i) revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for at least 5 years, revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for more than 5 years, or revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for life; and

(ii) a monetary fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 in addition to the fine imposed on a person under this chapter for the specific hunting or fishing violation.

(f) This section does not prohibit a resident minor from purchasing any individual licenses for which the minor may be eligible under this chapter if the minor does not purchase the youth combination sports license.

(4) (a) The department may issue a free resident or nonresident big game combination license, as applicable, or a free resident or nonresident antelope license and wildlife conservation license, as applicable, to a resident or nonresident youth under ~~17~~ 18 years of age who has been diagnosed with a terminal life-threatening illness. In order for a youth to qualify for the free license, the department must receive documentation that the youth has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness from a licensed physician verifying that the youth is terminally ill ~~that the youth is terminally ill~~ licensed physician. The free license may be issued to a youth on a one-time basis for only one hunting season. As used in this subsection, "life-threatening illness" means any progressive, degenerative, or malignant disease or condition that results in a significant threat, likelihood, or certainty that the child's life expectancy will not extend past the child's 19th birthday unless the course of the disease is interrupted or abated.

(b) In exercising hunting privileges, the youth must be in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana hunting license or of a licensed Montana outfitter and conduct all hunting within the terms and conditions of the license issued.

(c) The department may waive hunter safety and education and bowhunter education requirements in 87-2-105 for a qualified youth under this subsection (4) and, in appropriate circumstances, may also allow the qualified youth to hunt from a vehicle in the manner described in 87-2-803.

(d) The department may limit the number of licenses issued pursuant to this subsection (4) to a total of 25 annually.

(5) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age and residents who are 62 years of age or older must, upon application and production of the documentation and information required by 87-2-202(1), be issued a resident wildlife conservation license without charge. (Terminates February 28, 2009--sec. 7, Ch. 452, L. 2007.)

**87-2-805. (Effective March 1, 2009) Persons under eighteen years of age -- youth combination sports license -- ~~terminally ill~~ youth with life-threatening illness under ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age.**

(1) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may fish and may hunt upland game and migratory game birds during the open season with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are 15 years of age may hunt migratory game birds with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are under 12 years of age may fish without a license. A nonresident person under 15 years of age may not fish in or on any Montana waters without first having obtained a Class B, B-4, or B-5 fishing license unless the nonresident person under 15 years of age is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident person and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult as established by law or by rule of the department.

(2) A resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may purchase a Class A-3 deer A tag for \$6.50 and a Class A-5 elk tag for \$8.

(3) (a) A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a youth combination sports license for \$25. A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age and who applies for any hunting license for the first time is entitled to receive a youth combination sports license free of charge.

(b) The youth combination sports license includes:

- (i) a conservation license;
- (ii) a fishing license;
- (iii) an upland game bird license;
- (iv) an elk license; and
- (v) a deer license.

(c) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A fishing license for \$8.

(d) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A-1 upland game bird license for \$3.

(e) A person who lawfully purchases or is granted a free youth combination sports license at 17 years of age, but who reaches 18 years of age during that license year, may legally use the license during that license year. A person who hunts or fishes using a youth combination sports license purchased or granted free after the person reaches 18 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to any of the following penalties by the sentencing court:

(i) revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for at least 5 years, revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for more than 5 years, or revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for life; and

(ii) a monetary fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 in addition to the fine imposed on a person under this chapter for the specific hunting or fishing violation.

(f) This section does not prohibit a resident minor from purchasing any individual licenses for which the minor may be eligible under this chapter if the minor does not purchase the youth combination sports license.

(4) (a) The department may issue a free resident or nonresident big game combination license, as applicable, or a free resident or nonresident antelope license and wildlife conservation license, as applicable, to a resident or nonresident youth under ~~17~~ 18 years of age who has been diagnosed with a ~~terminal~~ life-threatening illness. In order for a youth to qualify for the free license, the department must receive documentation that the youth has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness from a ~~licensed physician verifying that the youth is terminally ill~~ licensed physician. The free license may be issued to a youth on a one-time basis for only one hunting season. As used in this subsection, "life-threatening illness" means any progressive, degenerative, or malignant disease or condition that results in a significant threat, likelihood, or certainty that the child's life

expectancy will not extend past the child's 19th birthday unless the course of the disease is interrupted or abated.

(b) In exercising hunting privileges, the youth must be in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana hunting license or of a licensed Montana outfitter and conduct all hunting within the terms and conditions of the license issued.

(c) The department may waive hunter safety and education and bowhunter education requirements in 87-2-105 for a qualified youth under this subsection (4) and, in appropriate circumstances, may also allow the qualified youth to hunt from a vehicle in the manner described in 87-2-803.

(d) The department may limit the number of licenses issued pursuant to this subsection (4) to a total of 25 annually."

**Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 0383, originated in the House.

---

Chief Clerk of the House

---

Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

---

President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

HOUSE BILL NO. 383

INTRODUCED BY ARNTZEN, D. BROWN, COHENOUR, HAMILTON, HENDRICK, KLOCK, INGRAHAM,  
MENAHAH, O'HARA, PHILLIPS, POMNICHOWSKI, TAYLOR, VINCENT, SQUIRES, STORY, BEAN,  
B. BECK, BUTCHER, COONEY, MILBURN, MILLER, REICHNER, SONJU

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FREE HUNTING LICENSES TO  
CERTAIN YOUTHS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES; DEFINING "LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS";  
AMENDING SECTION 87-2-805, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.